

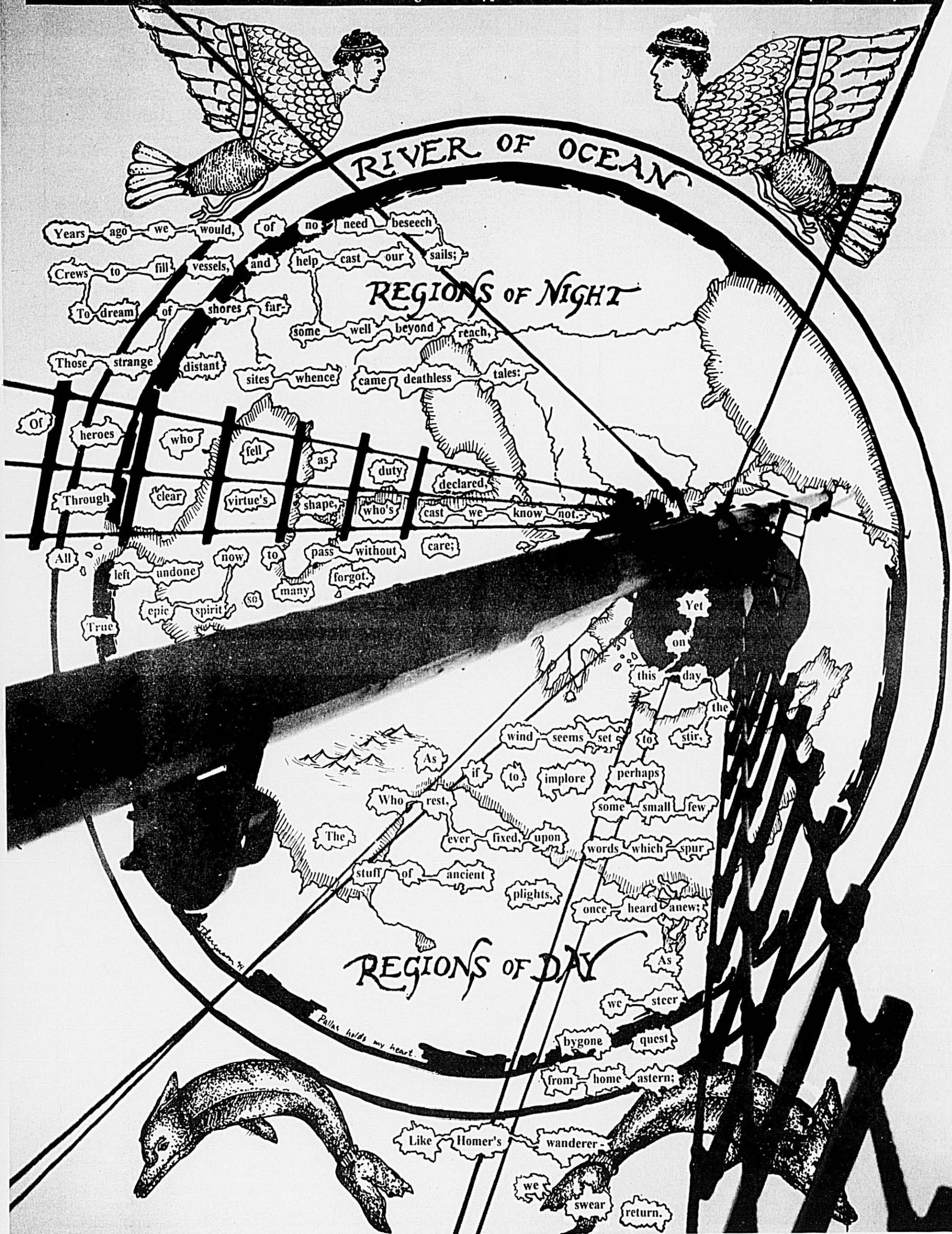
INSIDE: Appeal to overturn Leonard Peltier's extradition — SEE PAGES 6-7

MCGILL DAILY CULTURE

VOLUME 84 • NUMBER 24

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National protest against homophobic censorship: CKUT presents SEX-FM

BY CHERIE PAYNE

The Canadian Radio—television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has been unfairly harassing gay and lesbian campus radio and it's time for them to stop, says the National Campus and Community Radio Association.

Canadian campus/community stations will be participating in a national day of protest called against the CRTC's decision to restrict CKDU—FM Halifax's right to broadcast sexually explicit material between 6AM and 9PM today.

The decision came after the CRTC — the federal governments' broadcast regulating body — received a formal complaint from Halifax resident Wayne Harvey about the station's "All Day, All Gay" special broadcast. In his letter to the commission, Harvey wrote, "What I heard on the radio during that period was disgraceful and tasteless. The language was

very coarse and the reference to gay sexual preferences was totally unacceptable."

The transcripts of the program in question included terms like "ass cheeks," which is presumably the language that Harvey found offensive. CKDU program director Chris Trowbridge was angry with the decision.

"I felt that the pieces were not sexually explicit. The language was not coarse, and the references to homosexual practices are acceptable," he said.

Yet, in response to Harvey's complaint, the CRTC took the unusual step of holding a public hearing in December. Based on the hearing, the commission demanded the station air warnings before and during sexually explicit programs. It also restricted CKDU's use of such material to the hours between 9AM and 6PM.

Campus/community radio is worried that the CRTC's deci-

sion may serve as a precedent for the censorship of gay and lesbian radio programming across Canada.

"Campus/community radio in Canada is mandated to provide air time to groups who's interests are not served by the mainstream media. This includes the gay and lesbian community. We believe that standards for campus/community radio programs should be established by the communities they are designed to serve," said a press release from the National Campus and Community Radio Association.

In protest of the CRTC's decision, many campus/community stations will be re-airing the pieces that CKDU aired in its "All Day, All Gay" program. "Where any-



Elena Wright of Dykes on Mykes

one who feels strongly, they'll protest," stated CKUT's Dykes on Mykes Elena Wright. At CKUT,

the programming will also include an audio version of Kiss & Tell's Drawing the Line, whereby callers will be encouraged to call in and respond to the sexually explicit pieces being aired. Banned writing will be aired, and a roundtable discussion of women's sexuality, and masturbation will be held. The show will be aired today from 6pm to 11 pm on 90.3 CKUT

The protest will also serve as the launch of a postcard campaign. It is hoped that the postcards and letters sent to the CRTC will pressure the commission to stop homophobic rulings against campus and community radio. "I think [the CRTC's decision was] really threatening," said Wright. "When the CRTC validates homophobia, it's pretty scary."

BY RYAN FITZGERALD

With every passing outburst of violence the already fragile peace between Israel and the embryonic Palestinian Authority grows more delicate. With every death, with every ounce of blood spilled, another measure of patience dissolves. The massacre at the Hebron mosque last February and the bus explosion last Thursday only compound the sense that this entire situation is spiraling downward.

With these setbacks draining the will behind the Oslo Peace Agreement, the Daily spoke with two representatives of the McGill Palestinian community about what they believed was behind this hemorrhage.

Condemning the fitful violence that has crippled the resolve supporting peace, Halla Arafat, president of the Palestine Solidarity Committee, spoke about what is not being done to secure the peace.

For Halla Arafat, the Oslo Agreement's provisions are incomplete. This agreement between the Israeli Labour government and the PLO sought a compromise transfer of power to the 'Palestinian Authority,' a provisional administrative body with the power to police and govern the Gaza strip and the city of Jericho on the West Bank.

Confronting the Oslo Agreement

"I have a lot of reservations about the peace accord, not to say that I am against peace. But there were essential elements that were not handled and discussed properly in the peace accord. I would

have expected more from the P.L.O. to deal with those issues.

"Like the situation of the millions of refugees living outside of the occupied territory. And the building of Israeli settlements on the West Bank. They didn't deal with the question of Jerusalem, nor did Israel acknowledge that it is an occupying power."

Indeed, the Oslo Agreement ignored several issues previously high on the list of P.L.O. Refugees now account for a majority of the world Palestinian population. The continued construction of Israeli settlements on the West Bank have led the United States to withhold four billion dollars in loan guarantees. Issues once deemed crucial to the struggle have been pushed to the background. This raises questions about the extent of the concessions the PLO offered Israel for its limited autonomy. When asked if this agreement was a step forward for the Palestinian people Arafat responded,

"The agreement, as it stands on paper, is not in the best interest of the Palestinian people. Lots of concessions were given and, again, lots of aspects were not dealt with."

Already handicapped by these concessions, the recent activities of Hamas, a PLO. adversary, have greatly complicated the situation. In an announcement given after an emergency cabinet meeting

October 20, Prime Minister Rabin called on the Palestinian Authority to curb Hamas activity. By this action Rabin is forcing the PLO to challenge its rival just as it is getting to the task of consolidating what real power it has.

This development has given people reservations about the possibility of a political resolution of this crisis. Rabin's ultimatum, given in response to the tragic bombing of the Tel Aviv commuter bus, dictates that Mr. Arafat "must choose between peace with Israel and peace with Hamas."

"This is an attempt at collective punishment," said Halla Arafat, "It won't solve the issue."

By holding the Palestinian Authority responsible for the actions of Palestinians outside its jurisdiction, the Israeli government has prompted Yasser Arafat to either make war with Hamas or support the Israeli decision to seal off the border between the West Bank and Gaza and Israel.

This would leave tens of thousands of Palestinians employed in Israel without work, disrupting the economic rebuilding of the Palestinian economy, and creating as much dissatisfaction as would a large-scale persecution of Hamas.

Hamas, in addition to supporting acts of terrorism, operates an extensive network of schools, health clinics, and has provided

much of the civil government absent under Israeli occupation. Its resources are extensive and it has survived several Israeli attempts to destroy it. If Israel could not stamp out Hamas, the Palestinian Authority stands little chance of complying with Rabin's ultimatum.

Halla Arafat described the predicament of the Palestinian Authority as "bain narain" - between two fires.

Which Palestine does Hamas represent?

Alya Azar, a Palestinian student seemed even more despondent when considering Mr. Arafat's chances of curbing Hamas.

"Hamas is composed of many people. (Arafat) cannot stop all of those people. He can put some of them in prison but they will continue to struggle and this brings only more opposition against the PLO."

This sentiment was echoed again in *Sundays The Observer*, where Palestinian lecturer Dr. Ghassan Khatib was quoted saying "Hamas is deeply rooted in our society. We are talking about a popular movement, not a few dozen [people]. If you try to kill the ones you see, you will only get many more of the same."

With Arafat clamouring for elections in November, Rabin has stated that only those parties will

ing to accept the Oslo Agreement should be on the ballot. Whether or not Arafat finds this acceptable, the pressure is on him to regain a mandate through legitimate elections.

Who most deserves this mandate? Should Hamas be allowed to participate in these elections?

"No," says Azar. "Not after what they have done now."

"The Palestinian Authority is still very weak. Arafat has done a lot to achieve the peace accord but he still makes mistakes. I think the best representatives for the Palestinians are the civilians of Gaza and Jericho themselves. But they don't really have a say, we don't know how they feel."

Azar, who co-penned the letter to the Daily this Monday concerning misrepresentation of a Palestinian 'state', said that the media misunderstands the public opinion of average Palestinians and that this contributes to confusion abroad about the situation.

Halla Arafat also complained of misguided letters and harassing phone calls from people upset over recent events. Commenting that she had not been contacted about recent demonstrations and assemblies concerning Thursday's tragedy, she also reiterated that communication and understanding between involved McGill community organizations was pitifully low.

Misunderstanding, confusion, and an aching sense of betrayal surround both poles of opinion at McGill. They mirror the growing feeling of despair and resignation in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. With a shrinking margin of compromise the possibility of achieving an equitable settlement may be disappearing.

COMMENT

Saving Haiti?

Jean Bertrand Aristide. The name rings a bell, doesn't it? Something about Haiti, something about the U.S. restoring its neighbour's rightful ruler. Given the short attention span of the media, it is hardly surprising that Haiti has already slipped from the front page of the paper, and to the back of many of our minds. But the happy ending presented by the mainstream media is illusory. Aristide has indeed been restored as the President of Haiti, but at what cost?

From the moment that Aristide was elected, with his platform of land-distribution and a decent minimum wage, American officials were alarmed. The U.S. initiated a slur campaign against Aristide, stepped-up funding to ultra-right organizations, and sent the Haitian militia for training in Georgia. The fact that Aristide had been democratically elected didn't stop the dying hegemon from imposing the model of their choice.

It may seem that the Americans suddenly recognized the self-interested error of their ways and relented, even facilitated the return of the deposed leader. But Aristide lacks effective power. Rather, the U.S. is holding the reins that will limit what policies Aristide may implement.

Consider the economic plan that Aristide was forced to accept in order to be reinstated. Here is a glimpse of the Structural Adjustment Policy that the World Bank, led by its most powerful decision-maker the U.S., has imposed on Haiti:

As summarized by the Multinational Monitor, "Haiti commits to eliminate the jobs of half of its civil servants, massively privatize public services, 'drastically' slash tariffs and import restrictions, eschew price and foreign exchange controls, grant 'emergency' aid to the export sector, enforce an 'open foreign investment policy', rewrite its corporate laws, 'end regulation', diminish the power of Aristide's executive branch in favour of the more conservative parliament and 'limit the scope of state activity'."

According to World Bank official, Alex Peuker, "this would make Haiti interesting for foreign investors, [and] not just because it's a low wage country". When asked why Aristide's plans to increase the minimum wage and formulate a social security pension were dropped, he replied that it was a "non-issue". Perhaps this is related to USAID's stated goal of using cheap labour to turn Haiti into the "Taiwan of the Caribbean".

"It's not on the agenda... [because] you just don't regulate that in a country like Haiti where the government's enforcement capacity is nil," Peuker asserted. This is the same plan that wants to "limit the scope of state activity", and reduce its power over fiscal and monetary policy.

Aristide not only lost the power to implement his previous populist policies, but was expected to thank the Clinton administration for the crumbs they tossed his way.

Aristide's reluctance to give thanks incensed the U.S. Congress and several members of the American press.

"For three full days after the Carter agreement, he uttered not a word of thanks to America, for the 20,000 troops on whose backs he will ride to the Presidential palace in Port-au-Prince," wrote Charles Krauthammer in his essay in *Time* entitled *To the Rescue of Ingrates*. Eventually, "His Excellency deigned to say a merci", noted Krauthammer with evident relief.

In thanking the United States, Aristide was forced to edit history by overlooking the American role in the coup that displaced him. Under duress, he expressed gratitude to the same country which unofficially colonized the Haitian people in the 1920s, when President Woodrow Wilson invaded and re-organized the state to suit American interests. Sound familiar?

But the United States is not without its cohorts. Canada has quietly supported America's blatant restructuring of a sovereign state. The RCMP is currently involved in the training of the new, "reformed" Haitian police, in a program entitled, "Policing in a Democracy".

While the existing Haitian police force may need assistance, Canada's contribution implicitly supports the idea of American invasion while doing nothing to support Aristide's original plans for helping Haiti's poor. Haiti is not likely to receive significant amounts of Canadian development aid. If past Canadian aid is any indication, our real concern lies not with alleviating poverty in the world's poorest countries, but in developing trade links with the more profitable Pacific Rim and Eastern Europe.

Haiti may have fallen out of the international spotlight, but the fundamental problems of poverty, inequality, and foreign involvement remain untouched. Please don't mistake Haiti's disappearance from the cover of *Time* for a 'happy ending'.

Robin Perelle and Josee Johnston

HYDE PARK

Comparing Hebron and Tel Aviv

by Azim Hussain & Rami Dajani

The absence of comparisons between the Tel Aviv bombing and the Hebron massacre of last year reveals something significant about the state of political culture on campus as well as in the media. The events have unfolded in such a tragic and lamentable way that they provide a test case of how terrorism committed by Palestinians provokes different reactions than terrorism by Israel. Much can be learned by comparing both media and campus group reactions to the Hebron and Tel Aviv massacres.

One basic difference in reaction has been the personalization of the Goldstein massacre and the generalization of the Hamas one. Through the media we learned everything about Goldstein's past life, and his friends. We were treated to eloquent apologetic accounts by Goldstein's friends on how he was basically a good, family-loving guy, who went off the deep end because Arabs forced him to.

We heard interviews of Kach spokesmen in Israel as well as New York and little outrage was expressed at the hero's burial given to Goldstein by his Kach peers.

No such thing for the Tel Aviv bombing: no psychological profile or personal history was to be found in the media. Furthermore, the issue was quickly generalized (predictably enough) to all of Palestinian society; the whole society was guilty of the killings.

...LETTERS

Palestinians are really Israelis

To the Daily,

Michael Henson and Heather Ross (letters, October 19 and 24) are absolutely right: You won't find a state called Palestine on any contemporary map or globe. You will, however, find a state called Israel on the spot where Palestine was on old maps and globes. The state of Palestine (it was under British rule, but it was nevertheless a state) ceased to exist in 1948, when about 75 per cent of its territory became the new state of Israel. The rest came under Jordanian and Egyptian control. In June, 1967, the borders of Israel expanded to encompass the remaining 25 per cent of the old Palestine. Although the Arab states considered Israel's 1967 acquisitions to be "occupied territories", the PLO has now recognised Israel's sovereignty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the PLO's Declaration of Principles that was signed in Washington on September 13, 1993, the words "occupied territories" do not appear; neither does the word "sovereignty". This means the PLO has officially acknowledged the legitimacy of the current borders of the state of Israel. Since the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it seems pointless at this stage for any other party to insist that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are "occupied territories". Thus, "Palestine" is merely another name for the country whose legal and internationally recognised name is Israel, and "Palestinian"

is just another word for Israeli. It logically follows, as I'm sure Mr. Henson and Ms. Ross will agree, that Palestinians have the legal as well as the moral right to live in Israel as Israeli citizens on a basis of full equality with their Jewish compatriots, as was stipulated in UN resolution 194 of 1948, the implementation of which was a condition of Israel's admission to membership in the United Nations in 1949.

Mark Marshall
B.A. McGill, 1988

Misrepresented
To the Daily,

I'm appalled and insulted by the manner in which I was portrayed in the October 17 article about the IGLC debate. It has taken me so long to respond because I had so much to say, I had trouble cutting it down to 300 words.

The comment I made about the KKK was reprehensibly taken out of context. It was hypothetically proposed that a group calling itself the KKK, but admitting Blacks and Jews and forbidding any kind of discrimination in its constitution, apply for club status with the SSMU. Under any definition, such a group is not racist; it transcends its name, and condemning it for the name alone is the most blatant form of prejudice imaginable. This is the point I was making when I said, "you can't assume that people are discrimina-

tory." Immediately following this statement, I spoke of McGill's former discrimination towards Jews, which does not currently taint our moral conception of the university because policy has been changed. The fraternities and sororities at McGill are comparable, having been discriminatory, but no longer being so. Still, we seem to be forever condemned because the word "fraternity" offends people.

We are proud that there is no discrimination in the Inter Greek Letter Council. The reason our application was denied was that SSMU's council objected to the separation of men and women within IGLC groups. Such differentiation exists for sports team, and for clubs like the Women's Union, but apparently IGLC's equal opportunity for the sexes is irrelevant.

I won't impose my opinion on this matter (unlike the *Daily* "journalists"). All the IGLC has ever asked is that students think about the issue with open minds, get informed, and not condemn a group based on ignorance, or nomenclature.

Natalie Frank
U3 Arts
VP External IGLC

Ed note: If the KKK allowed Black and Jews to join, but segregated them into different groups, as fraternities and sororities do, they would still be discriminatory.

The Daily welcomes all letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and phone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. We print all letters provided they are not racist, sexist, homophobic or slanderous. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.

SINCE 1911
Vol. 84 No. 24

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MCGILL DAILY CULTURE

Candidate in Peter McGill

Malcom McLean (MCM)

BY AUBREY COHEN

After being involved with the Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) since 1985, Malcom McLean has decided to throw his hat into the ring. He is one of several candidates vying to replace Nick Auf Der Maur as the city councillor for the Peter McGill district, which includes most of downtown Montréal.

"For the last twenty years, I've been working in public policy... I want to get involved as an elected official somewhere... A city councillor has the highest moral force to get things done. This is the grass roots."

He claims the MCM has served the city well in many respects.

"[Doré and the MCM] have been very successful at getting the governments in line," he said.

According to McLean, the greatest accomplishment of the MCM is in the area of Democratization. He noted that before 1986, "There was no city plan. There was no way for citizens to really put down their feelings about development."

He likened Vision Montréal mayoral candidate Pierre Bourque to former mayor Jean Drapeau on this issue, saying, "I don't want a Jean Drapeau vision of Montréal. I don't want a Pierre Bourque vision."

The candidate outlined his concept about the future of administration, saying, "I really believe that... 50 years from now, there will be two governments that inhabit this world - the world government and the local government. I really don't see a future for the national government."

McLean gave as an example of this trend the recent tendency of other levels of government to transfer responsibility to the local governments. "I think the other governments have demonstrated the willingness to cede jurisdiction to the city, but they have not demonstrated the willingness to give the money to do the job."

This trend, he said forced the city to adopt the infamous surtax. "I don't see that the city had any choice [about the surtax] unless they were going to cut back services dramatically," he explained.

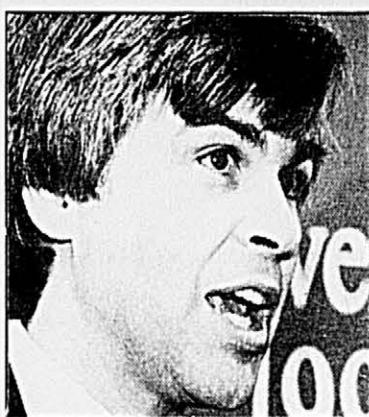
As the city councillor for the Peter McGill district, McLean said he would prioritise St. Catherine Street.

"I'd concentrate on one thing that I think is the city councillor's responsibility [in order to] help out Montréal. [That thing is] the overall general condition of that street," he said.

He mentioned concern for historic buildings as another priority. He gave the Seville Theatre as an example of this, noting how he has already met with people from Heritage Montréal and found a theatre company which needs a home.

"All of this is a demonstration of a city councillor at work," he noted

Election Profiles



CANDIDATES IN THE UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTION. From left to right: Malcom McLean (MCM), Georgine Coutu (Vision Montréal), Helen Fotopulos (MCM)

According to McLean, "The principles are there. The MCM's principles are there and they're very sound. What I'm trying to do is get down to the street level... and translate these principles down into the reality."

About the incumbent, Nick Auf Der Maur, McLean said, "By his own rights, he's done a brilliant job, [but] he's not doing very much for the residents."

McLean has also been involved with the issue of a university student discount bus pass. "I got on the phone to the director of planning for the MUCTC and asked him to give me a clear picture of what are the real possibilities of this kind of thing happening?"

McLean described this conversation, "'It's very clear,' he said, 'You people at the political level can push all you want for this to happen and you may succeed. But then you are going to have to get the many millions of dollars to make up the deficit.'"

McLean said he would pressure the other levels of government to cede funds to the city to cover this shortfall.

He also linked this to the issue of the promised budget cuts made by some of the other candidates, saying, "When you want to cut, you have to look them right square in the face and say 'what are you prepared to do without?'"

"City services mean [a lot of] things to a lot of people. Things like subsidised housing. Are you going to cut back on that?" McLean asked. He said job training is another example of this.

He referred to his own party on the issue of condo conversion, outlining the MCM regulations which are supposed to control the level of low-rent housing in the city.

He reacted positively to the issue of bike paths, saying, "The MCM has made the bicycle a viable mode of transport, compared to the way it was before, and it's going to become more so. There are new commitments by the MCM to build 25 kilometers more."

The MCM candidate also indicated the need for improved bike racks.

Finally, McLean addressed the issue of recycling, noting, "What I've committed to do over the next four years as a city councillor

is simply to find ways for them to bring curbside recycling into areas of this district."

Candidate in Peter McGill

Georgine Coutu (Vision Montréal)

BY AUBREY COHEN

Georgine Coutu is the Vision Montréal candidate in the Peter McGill district. A senior manager at Eaton's and a member of the Conseil des gouverneurs of the Greater Montréal Convention and Tourism Bureau, she said she is "at the right time and in the right place to see the deterioration of the city."

She blamed the policies of the Doré administration for many of the city's economic woes, saying as an example, "we were still licking our wounds [from the recession] when the surtax was applied."

As far as alternatives to the surtax are concerned, Coutu said, "we have to negotiate with the Québec government." She added that the city needs a permanent representative in Québec City to lobby for funding.

Coutu also listed trimming of the city's bureaucracy as one of her priorities. She deferred to the party platform on other issues, such as restructuring hotel taxes.

"We will revise the tax so that they don't pay on unoccupied rooms... [but rather] on level of occupancy," she explained.

She said the city needs to revise the role of paramunicipal institutions, noting, "I don't think it's the

role of the city to sponsor... the private sector, not with tax dollars."

Finally, she said her party would create a joint economic fund with the public and private sectors to be used for economic development.

Coutu said she does not think the city should eliminate reserved bike and bus lanes, or encourage more cars in town. At the same time, she said, "We have to stop the parking harassment... Ticketing has become an industry."

She added that, while the city needs to encourage the use of public transit, "there are people who need their cars."

The candidate linked environmental issues to business issues, saying, "The environment is a billion-dollar industry. Businesses are saving money by recycling."

Coutu added that she is "absolutely" in favour of requiring businesses to recycle, noting it is in "[businesses'] interest, our interest and the planet's interest."

She did not know about the lack of a discount bus pass for students over 18 years of age, but reacted with concern to the issue. She suggested a compromise could be reached between the current \$17 discount fare for students under 18 and the \$48 students pay as of they day they are old enough to vote.

The Vision Montréal candidate linked the issue of student housing to economic issues, noting, "It's important that our students study in Montréal. They inject money into the economy."

Candidate in Mile End

Helen Fotopulos (MCM)

BY AGATA DE SANTIS

Helen Fotopulos holds a Bachelor Degree of Arts as well as a Teaching and a Special Education Diploma. She taught at Les Écoles Peter Hall, a school for physically and mentally handicapped children. Some of her activities include co-founding a teachers' union and co-founding the Women's Self-Help Center. She had been actively part of the Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) since 1976.

Fotopulos was also associated

with Montréal's Declaration Against Racial Discrimination, has worked with the Advisory Committee on Intercultural and Race relations of Montréal and has made contributions to the implementation of the Employment Equity Program for cultural communities in the municipal civil service.

Fotopulos's platform includes projects for extending reserved parking in the district and connecting the Rachel bike path with the Mile End linear park. She said she believes that the district lacks green space and thus proposes to transform asphalted school yards into green playgrounds. She also prioritized helping the Rialto find a new vocation and to use culture as a major lever in economic development.

"We cannot invade the downtown area with cars," Fotopulos insisted. "If we turn Parc Ave into a superhighway, the gain will only be short term. Too many cars will diminish the quality of life." She said she believes the solution is "bus lanes with measures to make up for the inconveniences of losing parking space." There are choices to be made when you enter political office, she maintained. "Along with the credit comes the criticism."

The problem with bus fares is obviously a budgetary one, Fotopulos commented, referring to the issue of reduced fares for students. "I sympathize with students... but I cannot commit to that promise [of a university student discount bus pass]." She insisted that lower fares for students and increased services cannot be implemented at the same time. Increasing adult fares is not the solution either, she added.

On the issue of security, Fotopulos asserted that the solution to safer streets is more lighting and a program of training and awareness for the whole of society, especially for women. Fotopulos said groups, such as the YMCA, the CLSC, and ethnic representatives, can sensitize women on the issue and therefore increase safety.

Fotopulos voiced support for social housing and cooperatives, while acknowledging that the problem is not intention, but finances. "It's a question of getting the type of financing for social housing and co-ops we once had, which our friends in the other governments have cut," she noted. She added that taxpayers need to be kept in the city, saying that private housing and condos will be encouraged if that is what some taxpayers want.

Fotopulos emphasized the need to encourage artists to stay in the city, saying, "The artists are the backbone of our cultural activities. We cannot simply import culture.... I intend to be a strong voice at city hall for culture because cultural budgets need to be protected and promoted." One project she listed is the modernization of public libraries.

"Why do so many McGill students live in Mile End?" Fotopulos asked. "It's open, it's not boring, and it's not the suburbs. It provides you with a certain diversity of activities."



Millions of Italian workers strike

On October 14, millions of Italian workers walked out on strike to protest against budget cuts which include the right-wing government's move to slash retiree pensions.



Organizers said three million to four million people took part in the general strike. There were demonstrations in 80 cities. Three hundred fifty thousand people massed in Milan; 200,000 in Rome; 120,000 in Palermo. On his way to Moscow the day before the strike, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi traveled

to Moscow, where he stated the unions are "isolated."

He called strikes an "archaic form of struggle" and promised that, by firmly confronting them, he would send a "sign to the international financiers that Italian public finances are being sanitized." However, for eight hours the trains and buses did not run. The banks were closed, factories were quiet, and the streets of Italy were filled with demonstrators shouting, "Berlusconi out!"

Workers from companies owned by the prime minister marched in Milan to loud cheers.

Source: New York Transfer News Collective

Nicaragua's Sandinistas fire newspaper editor

MANAGUA, Oct. 25 — Carlos Fernando Chamorro was fired from his post as editor of the leftist Sandinista-owned newspaper *Barricada* on Tuesday, the victim of a power struggle inside the party that ruled Nicaragua for a decade. Named to succeed him as interim editor was Lumberto Campbell, a former guerilla commander who is not a journalist.

The Sandinistas came to power in a 1979 revolution. The party was thrown out of government in a 1990 election won by Violeta Chamorro.

"There were divergences between the editor and the owner of the newspaper, which is the Sandinista Front," Sandinista leader Tomas Borge told a news conference Tuesday. "It was decided to make a change in the direction of the newspaper," Borge continued.

The move came one day after another prominent Sandinista, former culture minister Ernesto Cardenal, resigned from the party amid a growing split between hardliners, who dominate the party, and moderates.

Campbell and Borge are linked to the hardline faction, which is led by former president Daniel Ortega.

Source: Reuters

NAFTA flunks union test

The first test of protection for workers' rights under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is over and NAFTA flunked.

A month after Mexican and US trade unionists testified in Washington that the US corporations General Electric and Honeywell fired Mexican workers for union organizing, US Labour Secretary Robert Reich has dismissed the charges as "unfounded."

The National Administrative Office (NAO), set up by the US Labor Department, is supposed to impose sanctions on trade with Mexico or Canada if the governments fail to enforce minimum-wage, child-labour or safety laws. In cases of union-busting activity, the NAO can only recommend further investigations. Reich refused to even do that.

"This whole thing has been a grand fiasco," said Chris Townsend of the United Electrical Workers.

His union has provided aid to the Authentic Labor Front (FAT) in its efforts to organize workers at GE's Mexican plants. "This Department of Labor, this Secretary of Labor has no enthusiasm to protect workers' rights," commented Townshend.

Source: New York Transfer News Collective

India blocks Kashmir delegation

The Indian government is refusing to grant passports to three Kashmir civilian leaders. The three are part of a delegation that was on its way to the United Nations and Washington to argue their case for ending a separatist war in Kashmir.

They were expected to speak at the Asia Society, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the United States Institute for Peace, the UN General Assembly and various other United Nations missions.

Delegate leader Abdul Gani Lone holds valid travel documents, but decided not to travel without his colleagues.

Source: New York Times



Appeal for Leonard Peltier

by
Catharine Soukoreff

TORONTO (CUP) — Leonard Peltier is a political prisoner today because Canada was duped into handing him over to American authorities. He was arrested in Canada and extradited to the United States to stand trial for the murders of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975.

The evidence connecting him to the crime has long since been discounted, the signed affidavits are fabrications, the bullets used as evidence are not from the crime scene, and the three other people also charged have been acquitted. Yet Peltier has been repeatedly denied appeals or parole despite the fact that a U.S. attorney conceded in open court that the FBI doesn't know who killed the agents.

"Canada was the link where it all began," said Ann Dreaver of the Leonard Peltier Defence Committee, Canada (LPDC). When Peltier was captured in Canada, the FBI provided signed affidavits from a woman from the reserve named Poor Bear, which later proved to be false. Members of the LPDC claim that in providing false evidence for the extradition hearing, the American justice system violated the spirit of the extradition system.

"It was a breach of trust," Dreaver says. "We have been violated; we have something to say about that." Peltier had applied in 1975 for political asylum in Canada on the basis that he would not receive a fair trial

in the United States. The Kwakiutl nation of British Columbia formally granted Peltier sanctuary, but it was neither recognized nor respected by the extradition board that studied the case.

"This case is a sign that the American government can do anything it wants," Dreaver says. "They violated the good faith of extradition process." The extradition process between Canada and the United States relies on each country sharing its evidence and case. If the host country determines at the extradition hearing that there is enough evidence to convict the defendant, then the prosecuting country is allowed to take him/her into custody.

In Peltier's case, the prosecuting country presented false evidence in order to get him into its courts. "Their attitude was, 'We don't care what Canada thinks, we're going to do whatever it takes to get him,'" says Robert Christie of the Osgoode Native Law Students Association.

Dreaver has been instrumental in getting the Canadian government to do something about the Peltier case. Volunteering their time, Dreaver and her husband have organized a lobbying group in Toronto to fight the extradition decision. The Leonard Peltier Defence Committee took the case right up to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Taking it to the courts

"The ballistics evidence is at the heart of the dispute in the States; in Canada the heart is the extradition," says Osgoode law professor Diane

Martin, one of the lawyers that argued the case in front of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1989. The LPDC presented a case that the extradition of Peltier was invalid and should be appealed. The group argued that had the court known the affidavit was false, there would not have been enough evidence to convince the court that Peltier should have been extradited.

The Supreme Court agreed that fraud happened, but decided that technically, the case had to be dealt with at a political level. "The American courts say they were honest mistakes. Canada has been relying on the fact that the FBI thought that the affidavits were correct at the time," Martin explains.

"There is no question that the errors occurred; it's the significance that is disputed," Martin says. The American court of appeals also agreed that there were problems with the case, but denied Peltier a new trial on the grounds that the errors would probably not have changed a jury's mind.

The Canadian connection

The LPDC calls this case typical of the treatment of Native peoples by the American and Canadian governments. Put in context, Peltier's case has a huge impact on the struggle of North American indigenous people to defend their rights. Peltier's case had the effect of smashing the American Indian Movement (AIM). AIM was significant in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the attention the case received

Leonard Peltier is pictured at left in the custody of the RCMP in Vancouver, 1976. Peltier was fraudulently extradited to the U.S. on the basis of false eyewitness affidavits drawn up by two FBI agents. Now, after 15 years in prison, groups fight to overturn his extradition from Canada.

painted its members as violent and unmanageable terrorists.

"Peltier has been captured as a symbol of what happens if you stand up for your people," Dreaver says. Peltier has been adopted by many civil rights groups as an example of North American racism against aboriginal people. He has been recognized by Amnesty International as a political prisoner. The Canadian government realizes that extradition was just the beginning of the problem," Dreaver says.

"It creased into the trial. The American government was doing anything it could to get him, and Canada is complicit in that." According to Dreaver and the LPDC, this is "not a small mishandling — this is a case that shows the depth of American anti-Native attitudes."

Facing a life-time in prison

A third appeal attempt in July 1993 closed the door for Peltier's

appeal process. In the American eighth court of appeal, the FBI admitted it didn't know who killed the agents. Peltier is being kept in jail on the charge that he probably aided and abetted the criminal who did kill the agents. "Leonard was railroaded into jail. He is serving two life terms for something he did not do," Dreaver says.

"They are not obligated to do anything with Leonard. They can leave him in jail if they want to." Now U.S. President Clinton is Peltier's last means of freedom. Peltier has applied for executive clemency. This means that he has asked the president to look into the case and grant him his freedom. Clemency can only be applied for if all other avenues have been tried and failed. The president is the only one who can decide to free a convicted person in this way, and there is pressure from both sides on Clinton in this case.

The FBI has paid up to a million dollars in advertising and protests to

urge Clinton to make the decision to keep Peltier in jail. The LPDC has also been organizing an awareness campaign to encourage the opposite decision. "If Canada can register a formal complaint, it puts tremendous pressure on the American government to free him," Dreaver says. The LPDC is now putting together a proper legal strategy for directly lobbying Justice Minister Allan Rock to act on this case.

Earlier this year, Rock agreed to do an internal review of the case to decide whether Canada should officially register an objection to the way the extradition was manipulated by the FBI. The review can be instrumental in Peltier's clemency appeal. Canada can directly recommend that Peltier be released, or may demand that he be returned to Canada.

"If clemency should fail, he could spend his entire life in prison. It is critical that we get people writing letters to the minister," Dreaver says. In light of the effect that the Ameri-

can government has had on the case already, the LPDC is asking also that an independent party conduct the review.

Peltier's defence today

The demand for Peltier's freedom has been escalating recently with the release in 1992 of the film, *Incident at Oglala*, and the book, *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse*, which document the case.

The LPDC has toured the world raising awareness of Peltier's plight. In 1992, 55 Canadian MPs protested and showed support at Peltier's third attempt at an appeal.

Worldwide support has been expressed through petitions signed by 60 Italian MPs, 48 Dutch MPs, 55 members of the U.S. Congress, and petitions from other countries, including the former Soviet Union. Peltier's case has been recognized by the Human Rights Commission of Spain, and he was

given an award of recognition for "defending the rights of his people against the genocide of his race." Dreaver says:

"In context of overall struggle, this is not just a case, but a sign of the struggle of Native people. There are people on the front lines in Canada who are faced with these sort of issues. It is a recent case that is still going on." The LPDC is focused now on co-ordinating organizers of already-existing lobby groups to support Peltier. It is asking students to make a commitment to change the conditions for Native peoples in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Students has shown support in the form of awareness raising and letter-writing campaigns. Fifteen universities had Leonard Peltier Awareness days last Oct. 12 with booths, film screenings and speakers. Oct. 12 is now known as Indigenous Peoples' Awareness Day in Canada, and more and more people are choosing to celebrate it over Columbus Day in the U.S.

BLOWOUT COMB: Phat funk for political parties

BY INDIRA KUMAR

When I heard that the Digable Planets were coming out with a new album, I knew, without even hearing it, that I would like it. I was first introduced to acid jazz (loosely defined as the fusion of rap, hip-hop and jazz) via the Digable Planets' debut album *Reachin' (A New Refutation of Time and Space)*. Ever since then, I've been hooked.

This second album *Blowout Comb*, is different from the first.

The beats are slower, fatter and FUNKIER than ever. If the term "funk" makes you weary, you are not alone. It is now a corporate catch-phrase and has been used to describe everything from Tom Jones to Miami Sound Machine.

Listening to *Blowout*, images of the 70's flooded my mind.

Due to sensationalism, when we think of the 70's we think of silver platforms, disco collars, and bellbottoms. But the decade offered much more than that. We forget that the 70's were a time of strong political consciousness. The beauty of *Blowout*, is that it both drives the funk and politics.

Fiercely and defiantly, the Planets also address the urgent need to free political prisoners Leonard Peltier and Geronimo Pratt.

Peltier was charged for the alleged shootings and subsequent deaths of 2 FBI officers in

1975 on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. As an active member of AIM (American Indian Movement) Peltier proved a formidable opponent of Uncle Sam. Peltier fled to Canada after his arrest in fear of not getting a fair trial. He was illegally extradited from Canada by the FBI and his fears were confirmed when he was sentenced to a double life term which was based on fabricated FBI evidence.

The FBI were also known to have mentally and physically coerced witnesses into testifying against Peltier and withheld exculpatory evidence. Numerous appeals proved futile for Peltier and, though in 1992 (during the course of a final appeal) the prosecuting attorney against Peltier was quoted as stating:

THE NATURAL LIBERATION MESSENGERS



BLOWIN'

Blowin' out the mind dust
free the land

The beauty of **Blowout** is that it both **drives the funk and politics.**

"...we don't know who shot those agents..." Peltier is still serving a double life sentence.

Geronimo J. Jagga Pratt has spent the last 24 years in prison not for the murder he was charged with; it couldn't be be-

prior to the murder; suppression of key information at the trial (ie: the only surviving victim identified another man as the killer, one year prior to seeing Pratt's photo); that the key witness against Geronimo was an inform-

cause there is little or no evidence to prove this charge and too much evidence contradicting it. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that he was the Black Panther Deputy Minister of Defense for California, and was personally targeted by J. Edgar Hoover's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO).

Evidence of Pratt's framing by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the FBI include the "disappearance" of wiretap logs that record Pratt in Oakland (400 miles away from the shooting) two hours

ant for the LAPD and FBI but denied this under oath; and that 2 police agents infiltrated Geronimo's legal defense team.

Defense attorney Stuart Hanlon was quoted as saying bitterly "the one case that has always proven to me the [judicial] system doesn't work is Geronimo". Current D.A. Gil Garcetti has yet to review the case, as promised for the past 3 months.

In the cover booklet of the CD, Angie L. Colter writes: "we must seek information, then act. Words are beautiful, actions are supreme". This quote summarizes the power and eloquence that is found in the music of the Planets. This trio crosses sexual stereotypes, thumbing their noses up at convention, marketing ploys and the easy route to crossover acceptance.

The style is reminiscent of the 70's, but the album houses the familiar sounds of today. Guru checks in on "Borough Check". "Dial 7" flows with the sweet and seductive voice of Sarah Webb from the UK's D'Influence. Then there's hip hop legend Jazzy Joyce who womans the wheels of steel in the busting premier single "9th Wonder (blakitolism)".

Sharp-minded lyrics or just funky and phat beats to make you shake your rump, *Blowout Comb* has something to offer all hip-hop listeners.

BIOGAS: Are we getting something for nothing?

BY SHAWN CHIU

"You got a bad thing called biogas and you get a little bit of good out of it... It's an undesirable substance, but given that it's sort of unavoidable, you get the best out of it," said Don Wedge of the environmental group Stop.

Rotting garbage in landfills produces biogas, which can be used as a fuel source for generating electricity due to its high methane content after collection and purification.

Biogas is a very undesirable product of landfills because it is both a detriment to the environment and a health threat to nearby residents. It is composed of 40 per cent methane (compared to 50 per cent for natural gas), 38 per cent carbon dioxide, 16 per cent nitrogen, 6 per cent oxygen, along with traces of hydrogen sulfide and volatile organic chemicals (VOC).

Methane is 20 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas, and "it can form an explosive mixture with air," noted John Burcombe of the public interest group Mouvement au Courant, adding, "It can also seep through the ground... and come up in somebody's drain in their basement."

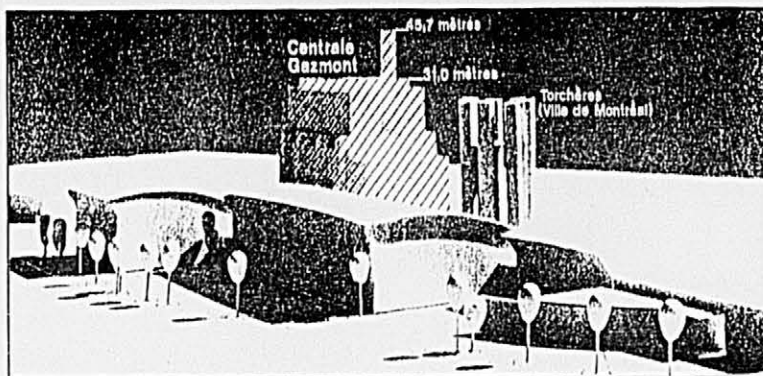
Because of this, according to experts, biogas had to be burnt for the sake of the environment and the safety of local residents.

Wedge explained, "at Miron... there were about 60 flares (pipes stuck in the ground to bring the gas out) and they would be lit."

Currently, however, biogas is collected by a retrieval system and then burned by large torches in a cleaner and more controlled process. This process destroys over 97 per cent of the VOCs, which are carcinogenic, and it also reduces the amount of carbon monoxide produced.

Gazmont has been chosen to convert part of the Miron landfill into a biogas powerplant. The thermo-electric plant will use biogas instead of coal to produce steam for the generator turbines.

When the plant is completed, it will produce similar amounts of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, nitrogen dioxide, and hydrogen chloride, but more carbon monoxide as com-



The Miron landfill is the largest dump in Canada. A proposed methane treatment centre on the dump site could convert biogas to enough electricity to power 10,000 homes for ten years.

pared with the large torches.

Although pollution is still being produced, the level will not increase significantly. "I think the consensus is: whatever the by-products [produced when burning biogas], it's better than unburned [biogas]," commented Wedge.

A 45.7 metre high smokestack has been proposed to aid in dispersing the pollutants away from the local area. However, because of the many industries close by, the cumulative effect may be approaching maximum allowable levels.

The plant will be located at the southern part of the Miron landfill, 500 metres north of the intersection of Crémazie, which flanks the Métropolitan and Jarry. This site has been chosen out of five

possible others in the area, because it is the furthest from residential areas, has less of a visual impact, is close to major pipelines, and the land drains well into the city's sewer system.

The Miron landfill is the largest dump site in Canada and the third largest in North America. Therefore, it is an ample source for biogas. "The Miron landfill is probably unique in the developed world not only for its size, but [also] in its proximity to residential properties," adds Wedge.

One of the problems envisioned by planners of the plant is that the steam from the smokestack will be carried by the prevailing winds over the Métropolitan Highway. This could be a potential visibility problem for motorists in the winter. Environment Minister Paradis emphasized in his approval that steam dispersion must be monitored and taken care of.

The plant has a capacity of 25 megawatts—23 of which will be

sold under contract to Hydro-Québec; 2 megawatts will be used for the plant's equipment. This is enough to service 10,000 homes. After 10 years, the output will diminish to 17 megawatts, and after 25 years, to 8 megawatts. By this time, much of the biogas supply will have been exhausted. Up to 3 per cent natural gas will be used to supplement biogas in times of peak usage, or when the rate of decomposition is low due to long periods of cold weather.

The \$30 million project proposal was approved by the Québec government in early September. Gazmont will run the biogas treatment and electricity generation plants for 25 years. It is expected to be completed by 1996. The city would supply the biogas for free, and expects 10 per cent of Gazmont's revenues and \$450,000 a year in taxes in return.

Although burning biogas to produce electricity is a novel way to convert an unwanted waste product into a usable fuel, "biogas is a problem in every landfill.... [The long-term solution] is to not put the decomposable materials into the quarry in the first place—reduction and composting [should be employed] instead," commented Burcombe.

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Banding together for the homeless

Local Artists perform to raise money and awareness

BY ADAMS POSLUNS

At Le Grand Cafe last Thursday morning, several local artists discussed the concept of the benefit concert they will take part in on the evening of Thursday, October 27. The concert, formally known as the "Artists for the homeless show" (*Le Spectacle des artistes pour les sans-abris*), will feature Montréal artists of all sorts, donating their talents to recognize current social problems and to raise funds for the homeless.

Featured artist Ian Halperin led the discussion, speaking of fellow performers, his new album and the benefit. He also presented the lifetime achievement awards, recognizing outstanding devotion to increasing public awareness of ever-present issues through artistic means. This year's winners included ex-CIQC radio personality Terry Haig and musical performer Cha Cha Da Vinci.

Haig, who is known for playing local music on the air, having homeless persons on his show, and for discussing topics such as racism and sexism, was acknowledged by Halperin for conveying his message of the homeless through his art. Haig said he is convinced that people are best touched through music and art and asserts that, "No changes will come about until those who are not touched by poverty are as outraged as those who are."

Cha Cha Da Vinci, who has performed in many charitable benefits, has challenged the conventions of most gig-playing street bands by working unrelentingly for non-profit charity organizations. Her devotion is exemplified through the "step above the street" life she lives, raising a child alone and by often having more than one job to support her career.

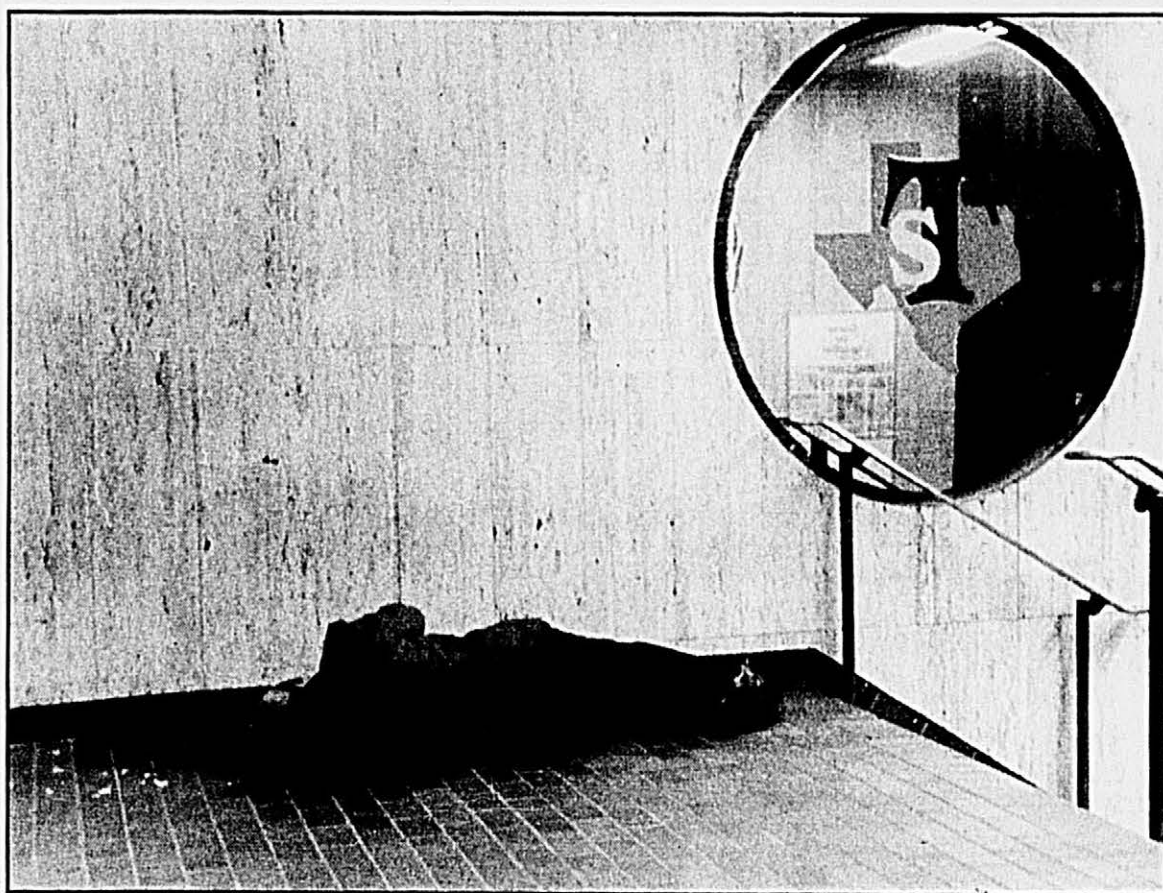
Halperin, who has helped organize and perform at both last year's and this year's benefits, has an incorrigible attitude towards helping the homeless through his work. The saxophonist worked as a metro musician for ten years. Through direct interaction, he gained a rapport with many homeless people and street performers.

His new cd, entitled *What Are We Gonna Do This Christmas?*, is due out in stores in two weeks. Fifty per cent of the profits will go to support groups of homeless. Some profits from the benefit will be used to fund the production of a video for the cut *X-Mas Queen*.

Halperin's current goal is to sell 1,000 of the cd, then to release subsequent albums before Christmas over the next few years in order to continue helping the homeless. The purpose of his cd., says Halperin, is to "give something back to the people," as all the cuts tell the stories of the homeless from around the world.

The benefit will be a melange of English and French speaking street artists and feature performers from around the city. The confirmed list of performers includes: Dede Trake, Cha Cha Da Vinci, Corbach, Ian Halperin and Andre Theriault. In trying to maintain an intimate atmosphere, sideshows of comedy, dancing, music and acting will most likely take place as well. Talented artists and fun entertainment should make this benefit a more than enjoyable way to support the cause of helping the homeless.

The Artists for the homeless show will take place at 429 rue Viger est (Union Française) on Thursday, October 27 at 19h. The show is for those 18 and over. Pay by donation, advance tickets available for \$7. For tickets, call 285-2666.



Local artists are gearing up for a benefit concert to raise funds to help Montréal's homeless.

events

• **McGill Christian Fellowship** speaker meeting at 7pm in Shatner Caf. Fri. Oct. 28. Call Jean. 288-9741

• **Big Buddies** tutoring club mandatory meeting for all members. Today at 7pm in the Shatner caf. See you there!

• **The Organic Food Co-op's** ordering days are Mondays 12:30-6:30 in the Q-PIRG office (rm 505 Eaton Bldg.) Newcomers always welcome! For more info call 398-7432.

• **McGill Men's Volleyball** is back! Tryouts start this week and next, everybody welcome. Interested? Call 398-7011

• **Group Action** meeting and movies today at 6:30. Call Lisa at 287-9677 for details

• Poetry reading with Anne Cimon, author of "No Country for Women" and with Eileen Ballard on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2pm; Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Westmont. 935-7344. Free Admission!

• **Slamasa School of Irish Music** is sponsoring Irish Ceili Dance on Sat, Nov. 5 at 8pm at Royal Canadian Legion Hall, corner of Addington and de Maisonneuve. Music by Montréal Ceili Band. Admission \$8, Info. 483-4064 or 484-3313

• **The Women's Union** presents Group Discussions! Informal discussions by and for women on topics of women and feminism held every Monday at 5pm in Shatner 423. Beginning Monday, Oct. 31 with: Does feminism have a party line? A discussion of feminist theory, practice and labeling. Bring your ideas, food and friends!

• **The Centre for Applied Family Studies School of Social Work** is sponsoring a seminar on the Impact of Child Support Reform on Single Parent Families: Lessons Learned from the US by Reecia Kim, Ph.D. Thurs, Nov. 3, 12:30-1:30 in the

Wendy Patrick Rm. Wilson Hall, 3506 University St. Info. 398-5286

• A Law seminar, sponsored the Political Science Students Association will be held Wed, Nov. 2, 4:30-6:30, Lea. 26 featuring Professor Manfredi and Jurier.

• **WUSC McGill** will hold a meeting tonight at 6pm, rm 428 of the Union Building to organise a speaker on Burmese refugees. For more info call 284-0609

• **La centre de ressources sur la non-violence** presents Elements of peace within Native Communities in Québec-Labrador on Oct 28-30. It will be held in rm 232 of the Leacock building and at St James Anglican Church (1439 Ste Catherine W.) For more info call 844-0484

• **Image Ensemble Film Society** presents this week's workshop. Tonight on the 5th floor of the MacDonald Engineering building. This is a general introduction to Bolex and Eclair cameras. Time-8pm call 849-3427

• **Understanding Eating Disorders** at the Bowerman Room, Dobel Pavilion, Douglas Hospital 6875 LaSalle Blvd. Verdun on Nov 8, 1994, 7-9pm.

• **The McGill Women's Union** is co-ordinating a women's newsletter. Womyn, please leave your poetry, opinion pieces and suggestions or a name for the newsletter in the submissions box at the Women's Union, Shatner Building rm 423. For info or to get involved call Rebecca or Mel at the Women's Union 398-6823 or Elissa at 847-8604. Submission deadline, Monday November 21st.

• **The Battle of the Mayoralty Candidates - Forum National- Jean Doré** (Monday, Oct 31 12:30 pm) and **Jérôme Choquette** (Friday November 4 11:30 A.M.) Moot Court Faculty of law, 3644 Peel Street.

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Underground intrigue at OK Theatre

Marsha and Cindy take in an evening at the OK

BY REBECCA MCKECHNIE

Disgusted with the usual entertainment, the overly commercialized Hollywood flick, Marsha and Cindy break from their studies to spend an enticing evening at the OK theatre. Totally unprepared for what awaits them, they leave their humble abode hoping to embark on a true cultural experience. The story picks up as the two attempt to locate the theatre.

ACT ONE — *The Search Setting- The St. Laurent metro station.*

The two characters, dressed for a casual evening, head north on St. Laurent. Unsure of the theatre's exact bearing, Marsha and Cindy walk the streets. Once at Prince Arthur they venture one street east to hit St. Dominique. Though it seems like a rather residential neighbourhood, they continue south to locate 3480, spotting the quaint sign that marks the spot. Hesitantly they open the door, alas they have reached their cultural haven, the small but pleasant room that the OK theatre company calls home.

The OK theatre is a somewhat alternative company. Steph Poch, the OK's artistic director, hopes it to be a "more accessible theatre", putting on approximately eight shows a year, in an open concept set-



OK People from the OK Theatre

ting. They use the creative energies of the community to survive, as the OK is a non-profit company, relying on themselves, "their welfare checks, their student loans, and their parents" for financial support.

Their long term goal, according to Micheal Saurette, the star of their current performance- Bertolt Brecht's 'Baal', "To be a huge organization, a franchise, all over the world. To close down the Cineplex, the French theatres- make them redundant. People won't even need to eat". Can this be done? Is this a forecast for our future? Let's find out as we pick up our story in the second act.

ACT TWO — *The Theatre Setting- The inside of the OK.*

Marsha and Cindy find a seat quite close to the front, as they like to make eye contact with the actors. They observe the room to be quite cold, and note that they will remember to tell all their friends to wear a heavy sweater and mittens if they choose to venture out. They gaze at the stage, ever so impressed by the creative invention of making the architecture work for you, that is, noting the pole constructed into a formidable tree.. The girls get comfortable, and sit, ready for some action.

ACT THREE — *The Play-Setting- Yet again, inside the OK.*

Neither Marsha or Cindy are familiar with 'Baal' the play's title, though this bothers them little, as they are simply looking for some escape from the mundane activity that has filled their life for the last two months. And so they watch, as the many actors come out, singing, and then rolling right into the first scene..

Baal, the poetic, sexually obsessed and drunk protagonist - who actually bares his stomach one too many times, catches their attention. They have heard that he has replaced the original actor, who got a little too into the role, just four short days ago. Marsha and Cindy try to soak up any sort of meaning the play has to offer, they're somewhat confused, but roll with it. Marsha is a little aggravated by the portrayal of women, but Cindy points out that it's all apart of the context.

They come to the conclusion, after about an hour and a half, as the play has just ended, that the second half was much better than the first. They discuss superficially some of the talent, and lack of, but overall how nice it was to break out of their routine.

ACT FOUR — *Important Information* The play runs from Oct. 26th- Nov. 5th, excluding Monday and Tuesday. The show starts at 21h. Call 982-9050.

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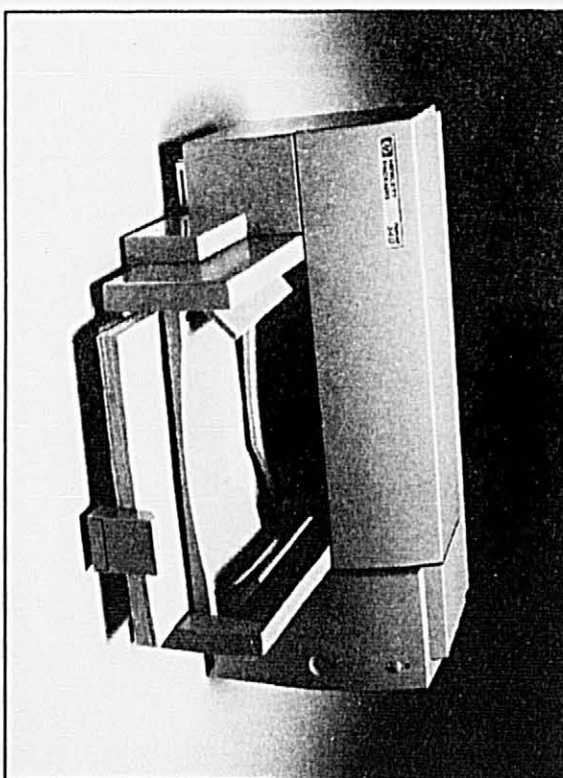
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